(c) whether Government have taken any step in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had constituted a Task Force to prepare an action plan to accelerate the growth of Internet and to recommend *inter-alia* a methodology to set up Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) for peering of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) so as to save cost of International Bandwidth TRAI is of the view that IXPs should be set up as commercial entities and be run by industry itself, *e.g.* through Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI). The IXPs may initially be set up in the four metro cities and in due course, similar peering points may be established at State capitals, so the bandwidth on the national backbone as well can be saved.

(b) The other salient suggestions of TRAI are:

(i) De-licensing of the 2.4 GHz(ISM) band for low power, short range outdoor W-LAN applications and last mile Internet access.

(ii) Facilitation of direct access by ISPs to the bottleneck facilities for access to International Submarine Cable Systems.

(iii) ISPs to be conferred the status of Infrastructure Industry.

(iv) Economic incentives to be considered to reduce the cost of Internet access devices.

(c) and (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has decreased the tariff rates for Internet access calls by half during non peak hours in the night (from 22.30 hrs. to 06.30 hrs).

Ill-effects of Radiation from Mobile Phones

†231. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the ill-effects on human body from the radiation emitting from mobile phone;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a lot of researches have been conducted in Western countries on the radiation emitting from mobile phones and its-ill-effects on human body;

(d) if so, the doubts raised by the experts in this connection; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Help to departments in the areas of global competition

232. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which Government are helping various departments to gain place in the global competition in their respective fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the efforts put in by Government in this direction;

(c) whether the efforts put in by Government to help the departments since its inception have proved fruitful;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (e) The Department of Information Technology (earlier known as Department of Electronics) since its formation, has been helping various departments of the Government of India to gain global competition by adopting information technology in their respective fields through: